

Federal Government dictating curriculum to States and school districts in the legislation creating the Department of Education, and there is also good reason to be wary of Federal involvement in certifying education standards. The seriously flawed and justifiably controversial history standards illustrate how the standards-setting process can go awry and point out the dangers of having a Presidentially appointed, unaccountable body certifying standards.

Standards-based reform remains one of the most promising strategies for improving education for all children in our Nation. Of course, these must be rigorous academic standards and not vague and fuzzy attempts to shape students' attitudes and values, matters that should be left to parents. The most important standards development must take place in our communities and school districts. States and national organizations can assist this process by creating model standards. However, Federal certification of these standards is not necessary for this process to be effective or constructive.

In addition, both Goals 2000 and IASA contain references to "opportunity to learn" [OTL] standards, including funds for the development of model national opportunity to learn standards and a requirement that states develop opportunity to learn standards or strategies. OTL is nothing more than a euphemism for decisions about spending and resources in schools and school districts. Nothing could do more injury to state and local control of education than injecting the Federal Government into dictating decisions about the allocation of funds and other resources in local school districts.

This legislation, which eliminates the National Education Standards and Improvement Council and strikes all references to opportunity to learn standards or strategies from both Goals 2000 and IASA, will put a stop to an unwarranted Federal intrusion into education and preserve traditional State and local control of this vital enterprise. I urge my colleagues to support and cosponsor this bill.

SALUTE TO THE OGONTZ AVENUE REVITALIZATION CORP.

HON. THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 1995

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the Ogontz Avenue Revitalization Corp. of Philadelphia.

The Ogontz Avenue Revitalization Corp. was established in 1983 to improve the quality of life in communities throughout the city of Philadelphia. The OARC has initiated programs which have created affordable housing, combated community deterioration, and curbed juvenile delinquency. Some of the OARC's contributions include the development of projects such as the Southeastern Pennsylvania Regional Employment and Training Center which provides essential training to dislocated workers and young people. The OARC has also assisted the community through the establishment of the Ogontz Avenue Business Association and the Police Mini Station which serve the many neighborhoods around Ogontz Avenue. The OARC has also been responsible for the sponsorship of an annual community festival, which has promoted a sense of

community pride among the residents of West Oak Lane in Philadelphia. There is no doubt that the OARC has contributed greatly to the revitalization of these northwest Philadelphia communities and has restored hope to the city.

I am proud of the contributions of the OARC to the city of Philadelphia and I congratulate the OARC and the members of the OARC board on their accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO BOB BURY

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 1995

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bob Bury, an outstanding citizen of California's 14th Congressional District who was honored as the 1995 Outstanding Citizen of the Year at the Sequoia Awards in recognition of his extraordinary contributions and commitment to our community and our country.

Bob Bury served with distinction for six terms on the city council of Redwood City, including several terms as mayor. He has also served as a city port commissioner, a member of the housing and community development board, the Casa de Redwood Senior Housing Project, and the San Mateo County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Bob Bury is an exemplary civic leader and volunteer who is a model for others to emulate. He has given decades of generous service to such worthy groups as the Kainos program for mentally challenged adults and the Boy Scouts. He was an early supporter of the Fair Oaks Community Center, and has been a tireless advocate for the development of a park on the east side of Redwood City. Over the years, he has become a beloved community figure, an advocate for community services for all who need them and an effective, humane and generous leader. His lifelong partner in life, June Bury, and their children and grandchildren have helped make our community the special place it is today.

Mr. Speaker, Bob Bury is an exceptional individual who has strengthened our Nation as he has worked to build in every way his own community. I am privileged to call him my friend and urge my colleagues to join me in saluting him for receiving the Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award and for his incomparable generosity and tireless service to our country.

AT-BIRTH ABANDONED BABY ACT

HON. HARRIS W. FAWELL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 1995

Mr. FAWELL. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing, along with Congressman PETER VISCLOSKEY and Congresswoman DEBORAH PRYCE, the At-Birth Abandoned Baby Act of 1995. The bill guarantees all babies abandoned at birth, or shortly thereafter, the right to immediate placement and bonding with preadoptive parents. The preadoptive parents are then given the right to immediately initiate proceedings for an expeditious adoption of the abandoned baby.

Something must be done about the terrible plight faced by babies abandoned at birth. Our present system, in effect, leaves our most vulnerable babies—those who are abandoned at birth and often drug addicted and/or HIV infected—without access to immediate bonding with loving parents or any chance for a permanent home, both of which they so desperately need.

Worst of all, they have no one to represent them for a chance to find loving parents and a permanent home.

The At-Birth Abandoned Baby Act of 1995 amends title IV(E) of the Social Security Act. The bill simply requires State welfare authorities to immediately place at-birth abandoned babies with suitable preadoptive parents who, in turn, will be allowed to immediately file for an expeditious adoption of the abandoned baby in the State court of proper jurisdiction. The State court will be responsible for the final decision of adoption, taking into account the legal rights of all parties involved, including the infant abandoned at birth, the natural parent(s) and the preadoptive parents. The bill gives babies abandoned at birth at least a fighting chance for immediate parental bonding and a permanent home.

Mr. Speaker, we must take action here and now in Congress. I want to urge all of my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this vital measure.

NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK

HON. JOE SKEEN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 1995

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to pay respect today to the 1.8 million engineers who work in the United States. Engineering is the Nation's second largest profession. And this week, February 19–25, we are marking their contributions by celebrating National Engineers Week.

As an agriculture engineer myself, and as chairman of the House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, I have particular respect for the work that is being done in the area of food engineering. The same professionals who introduced TV dinners to the American marketplace more than 40 years ago, and more recently, thrilled schoolgoing children with the invention of juice boxes for their brown bag lunches are now working to produce more environmentally friendly food packaging. Engineers understand America's concern with our quickly filling landfills and they are working to reduce the throwaway byproducts of food consumption.

Food engineers can be credited with the invention of decaffeinated coffee, as well as microwavable food, freeze-dried foods, even dehydrated products. Most recently, they have developed a way to keep milk fresh longer, even at room temperature.

Food engineers are also involved in cutting-edge technologies like genetic engineering to produce crops more resistant to pests or more durable for processing. And they are constantly working to improve established products by enhancing overall flavor, reducing manufacturing costs, improving nutrition, or making the packaging more recyclable.